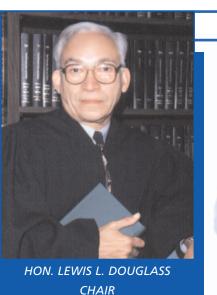
NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM



# Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities

Winter 2006



#### **Message from the Chair**

ON OCTOBER 24, 2005, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA LOST ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL CITIZENS AFFECTING AMERICAN POLICY. Rosa Lee Parks—a petite, unassuming seamstress from Montgomery, Alabama—inspired an entire race to take a stand and say "I am tired of enduring unequal treatment and deserve to be treated as any other American." Mrs. Parks died as she lived her life—quietly and surrounded by family and friends. Yet for all of her demure and mild-mannered demeanor, she was not a person who could sit "at the back of the bus" and ignore injustice.

December 1, 1955, was a day like any other day that Mrs. Park rode the bus to work. But this day, she refused to move to the back of the bus when a white man demanded her seat. Mrs. Parks made it clear in later speeches that she did not refuse because "her feet hurt and she was tired." Instead the real reason for her action that day was, "I was tired of being tired of enduring this kind of treatment for so long." Her one-woman defiant act inspired 50,000 Blacks in Montgomery to launch a historic 381-day boycott. Her action also launched a little-known Baptist minister, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., into the

national spotlight as he organized the boycott. Mrs. Parks was jailed and fined \$14. For this seemingly minute action, Mrs. Parks sparked a nation to facing how wrong it was to have segregation in America. It is said that she "sparked the conscience of America" and for this earned the title of the "mother of the civil rights movement."

In 1987, Mrs. Parks founded the Rosa and Raymond (her husband) Parks Institute for Self Development to develop young leaders. She was concerned that young people took legal equality for granted and often stated that older Blacks "have tried to shield young people from what we have suffered…and in so doing, we seem to have a more complacent attitude." She encouraged older Blacks to "double and redouble our efforts to give (our youth) an inspiration, an incentive, and the will to study our heritage and to know what it means to be Black in America today." But, when summarizing her life, Mrs. Parks said that she wanted to be remembered as "a person who always wanted to be free and wanted it not only for her but that freedom is for all human beings."

In this edition of the newsletter, The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities recognizes people of color who are employed in the New York State Unified Court System and who continue to promote workforce equali-

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ty in the spirit of Rosa Parks. Each—in their quiet, unassuming daily work performance—promotes an equal and productive work environment. In this edition, we highlight the stellar contributions made by employees within the upstate judicial districts. We also recognize people of color who, through their pioneering actions, are affecting a difference in the "conscience of the State of New York courts."

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# JONES NAMED ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF BROOKLYN SUPREME COURT, CIVIL TERM

**ON JANUARY 5, 2006, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE** Judge Jonathan Lippman announced the appointment of Supreme Court Justice Theodore T. Jones as Administrative Judge of the State Supreme Court, Civil Term, Kings County. The position is a new title with the responsibilities of this position previously being undertaken by Honorable Neil J. Firetog, who oversaw both the Criminal and Civil Terms. Judge Firetog will continue to act as the Administrative Judge of the State Supreme Court, Criminal Term.

A new courthouse opened in Brooklyn in July 2005, physically separating the criminal and civil court parts. It became increasingly difficult logistically for one person to oversee both terms. Brooklyn represents the largest Supreme Court administrative entity in the state. Judge Lippman decided that it made good managerial sense to have an administrative judge exclusively designated for each term. He stated that, "I am confident that the court community of Brooklyn will only benefit from this new administrative structure."

Judge Jones has been a well-respected and long-standing member of the Brooklyn legal community, with an impeccable reputation both as an attorney and sitting jurist. He is reputed to be an excellent mediator, easing the tensions between opposing sides and facilitating amicable resolutions. This trait is most notable in his recent handling of the New York City transit strike, whereby he demonstrated his "admirable qualities of judiciousness, thoughtfulness, integrity, and formidable intellect."

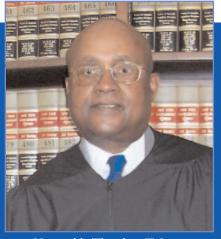
These traits are also evident as one observes the interaction between Judge Jones and Brooklyn court participants, both those in the state system and outside of the system. He greets employees, attorneys, and litigants—usually by name and always with a handshake and smile. It is clear that they admire and respect him. He attributes this mutual admiration to the fact that he has worked with most of these people for many years. Employees and colleagues sense his openness and willingness to listen to their concerns and suggestions-a most admirable trait in a good administrator.

Judge Jones has been a presiding Supreme Court Justice in Brooklyn since 1990. Previously, he was in private practice for fifteen (15) years, employed by the Legal Aid Society, and served as a law secretary to a New York State Court of Claims Judge. Prior to his legal career, he was a teacher in the New York City public school system and served as a captain in the United States Army. He earned his law degree from St. John's University School of Law and a degree in education and political science from Hampton University.

#### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE AS YOUR LEGACY AS ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE?

"I would like to improve the image of the courts, to put a positive face on some of the things that have occurred in the courts—especially the Brooklyn courts. I would like people to have more confidence in the working of the courts. One of my responsibilities as Administrative Judge is to oversee the activities of matrimonial courts. I would like to work with all participants in these court parts to ensure that the community is confident and satisfied with the service that we offer in these crucial matters of their lives."

The Commission extends its congratulations and wishes Judge Jones continued success. We know that he will make great contributions to both the Brooklyn Supreme Court and the New York State court system in his new role.



Honorable Theodore T. Jones

Administrative Judge

State Supreme Court, Civil Term

Kings County



Honorable Lewis L. Douglass, Chair of the Commission, congratulated Honorable Theodore T. Jones on his appointment as Administrative Judge in Brooklyn.

## FIVE THINGS THAT YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT JUDGE JONES:

# 1. Most Rewarding Accomplishment:

"Getting my two boys through college (my alma mater-Hampton University)"

- **2. Favorite Place Visited:** Sausalito, California
- **3. Favorite Singer:** Carmen McCrae
- **4. Favorite Dish:**Corned beef and cabbage
- **5. Hobby Passion:** Golf

### ROBERTS NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK STATE FAMILY COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION



Honorable Gayle P. Roberts

October 2005, Judge Gayle P. Roberts was sworn in as the President of the New York State Family Court Association **Judges** at the annual meeting in Saratoga Springs, New York. Judge Roberts was appoint-

ed to the bench in 1997 and currently sits in Family Court in Bronx County. One of her goals as President of the Association is to increase awareness of the issue of the disproportionate representation of minority children in the foster care and juvenile justice system.

Statistics throughout New York-as well as nationally-show that children of color enter the foster care system in larger numbers than non-minority children, remain in foster care for longer periods of time, and are more likely to become part of the juvenile justice system. She believes that the State of New York must do more. She is committed to ensuring that this issue receives the attention that it deserves.

Judge Roberts was an assistant district attorney in Bronx County prior to being appointed to the Family Court. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh and her law degree from Tulane University School of Law.

We congratulate and wish Judge Roberts much success. We know that she will continue to make great contributions in the family court system in her new role.

#### **JOLLY APPOINTED DEPUTY CHIEF COURT ATTORNEY**

ANNE-MARIE JOLLY, ESQ. was recently appointed as Deputy Chief Court Attorney, serving under Judge Joseph M. Lauria, the Administrative Judge of the Family Courts within the City of New York. Ms. Jolly assists the Chief Court Attorney in supervising, developing policy, and administering the operations of the Court Attorney law department. Her responsibilities also include providing initial and ongoing legal training and education for court attorneys.

Ms. Jolly was asked how she perceived her contributions to the New York court system and what she hoped to accomplish in her new position. She responded, "My legal career reflects an evolving, yet consistent, themethat of effecting change and ultimately making a positive difference in the lives of children and families." She further explained, "As a Court Attorney Referee,

I gained incredible insight into the business structure of a family court, especially in the area of child protective cases. Working these cases in a newly created court part in the Queens Family Court was wonderful and fulfilling endeavor." Ms. Jolly hopes that her legacy in this new position will be "to



increase the number of children and families that I serve by making a positive impact on the family court administrative practices as Deputy Chief Court Attorney." The Commission wishes her well in this endeavor.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR:

"A leading-edge diversity and inclusion strategy helps sustain business growth." - MDB Group, Inc.

# **WORKSHOP DIVERSITY CON**

THE SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (SHRM) HELD A CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS IN OCTOBER 2005 on the best work practices and issues affecting Diversity in the Workplace. Over eight hundred people involved in human resources and other management areas from almost all fifty states attended the conference. The conference addressed diversity based on race or national origin. It was also far reaching in discussing diversity across generational lines, disabilities, sexual orientation, transgender, age, and religion. The conference provided important and relevant information about workplace diversity issues. We explored the new challenges and new opportunities in fostering awareness and appreciation of workplace diversity issues among the work community. The workshops challenged attendees to be sensitive to exasperating the perception of differences in the workforce and informed them of efforts that may be considered legally dangerous practices. Participants were given tools and a list of resources to use when introducing diversity into their workplace.

The seminars and workshops were also diverse in topics. A partial list of topics included: Authentic Leadership for Women: The Confident Connection; Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts! How to Respond to Stereotypes and Other Biases Behaviors; Creating Value Out of Diversity; Transgender Issues in the American Workplace; Unintentional Intolerance: Turning Mindless Intolerance Into Mindful Inclusion; and Diversity 2015: Here Come the Millennials-Managing Four Generations at Work.





Michael Moore and Alice Chapman-Minutello of the OCA Workforce Diversity Office attended the conference.

# The conference presented a diverse group of prominent speakers from across the country.

These speakers also represented diverse professional fields, including academia, entertainment, public service, and corporate. Some of the speakers included:



Dr. Steve Long-Nguyen Robbins, workshop presenter on Unintentional Intolerance: Turning Mindless Intolerance Into Mindful Inclusion



(left) Charles Ogletree, a Harvard Law School professor who discussed the constitutional principal of equality under the law; (center) Ray Suarez , correspondent on the National Public Radio News Hour; and (right) Dr. Johnetta Cole, President of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina who discussed the responsibility of individuals in a diversified workforce

BD Wong was the closing speaker at the conference. While Wong is a recognizable character from the television show Law and Order, he is also an advocate for diversity. BD Wong spoke about his journey from racial self-hatred to manhood and the birth and challenge of raising his son.



# FERENCE AND EXPOSITION

#### HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE:

#### • Authentic Leadership for Women: The Confidence Connection

JANE SANDERS, A CONSULTANT WITH THE FIRM AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP RESOURCES, explored how people—especially women—have suppressed their natural balance of feminine-masculine qualities when aspiring to leadership positions. She said people should focus on their natural strengths to optimize their leadership success and improve performance, productivity, and competitive edge. She recommended that leaders should be reflective to identify their best traits for effective leadership and career advancement. Sanders explained that self-awareness comes through knowing your core values that uplift your innate confidence. Furthermore, your core values will assist you in identifying your best traits and in asking your associates and partners what they think are your best traits. She emphasized that a caring mind combined with a conscientiously assertive approach are the marks of an effective leader.

#### • Transgender Issues in the Workplace

MARK ABELSON, PRINCIPAL IN THE FIRM DIVERSITY@WORK, explored how to develop effective guidelines for transitioning employees. Stereotypes of perceived gender roles may affect our ability to see the individual. The workshop focused on how not to allow your perceptions of the individual's identity to create a hostile environment but instead to see the individual's actual identity. Abelson discussed issues such as co-workers' objections, bathroom usage, and possible objections from clients and the public.

#### • Measuring Diversity Results for Improved Performance

**EDWARD HUBBARD,** *Ph.D.*, *President and CEO of Hubbard and Hubbard, Inc.*, highlighted the proven techniques used to measure the success of a diverse workforce. He demonstrated the contribution of diversity initiatives to a successful workforce as a strategic requirement. He explained that diversity creates value that has a clear output in leveraging a company's ultimate success. He reminded the attendees that a diverse team tends to improve the output of the company.

#### A Case Study in Diversity Leadership and Management

**EMILIO EGEA,** VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AT PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL, used Prudential Financial as a case study showcasing how executives drive diversity results within an organization. The workshop focused on becoming proactive, holding people accountable for diversity results, and being a world-class organization by benchmarking those results against the marketplace. Egea expounded on the importance of senior leadership taking a stand and leading the effort to achieve workplace diversity. He stated that senior leaders must hold other workers accountable and have a bonus plan for those who comply with diversity initiatives. He indicated that companies must look at all groups for representation. He also noted that it is important to review the progress of diversity initiatives and to create measuring tools to identify success and productivity.

Egea delineated the tools necessary to improve the workplace environment, including leadership that must first exemplify the best qualities, management that must be held accountable, and a company that must outreach for partnerships in improving its business diversity. He stated that companies should also give back to the community and quantify their volunteer hours.

#### • Unintentional Intolerance: Turning Mindless Intolerance Into Mindful Inclusion

**STEVE LONG-NGUYEN ROBBINS**, *Ph.D.*, *PRINCIPAL AT ROBBINS & ASSOCIATES*, discussed cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity and what occurs when "good" people and organizations unintentionally engage in intolerance. He explained that through mindless and multiple redundant messages of apathy, a culture of insensitivity can undermine workplace diversity. He maintained that culture is the acquired knowledge people use to interpret experience and generate behavior.

#### RECOGNITION

They go to work each day, performing their duties with tireless dedication. They also create outreach programs to inform the public of the services and opportunities available throughout the New York State Unified Court System (UCS). The Commission asked Administrative Judges across the state to identify some of these extraordinary people. In this issue, we highlight some of the employees from the upstate districts.

MAJOR JEANNETTE JORDAN became a Major in the Third Judicial District in June 2005. During her tenure in the district, she has enhanced the productivity of the security personnel and assisted the district in meeting compliance with the Office of Court Administration (OCA) guidelines. Major Jordan has exhibited a strong sense of professionalism and integrity in executing her job. She has gained the respect and rapport with her command, judicial and non-judicial employees of the Third Judicial District, and outside agencies.

HOWARD HUGHES commenced his employment with the Third Judicial District in July 2001. He began as an Assistant Court Analyst for the Albany City Drug Court. He has established a good rapport with both his co-workers and the participants in the courts. He has demonstrated his professionalism and has been one of the key individuals who assisted with the implementation of the first Regional Drug Court in Albany County. Through his contributions, Mr. Hughes has changed the lives of many and has made the Albany City Drug Court very successful.

**HOA NGUYEN DINH initially worked at the Hall of Justice in the Seventh Judicial District** as a contractual temporary employee. She won the attention of her supervisors and was urged to take a UCS civil service examination. Ms. Nguyen Dinh is now a model employee assisting in the Rochester City Drug Treatment Court and in the Criminal Records Room.

**CONNIE WALKER, ESQ. is a Principal Law Clerk to Judge in the Seventh Judicial District.** She is a graduate of Syracuse University Law School and has worked in the Monroe County Attorney's and Monroe County Public Defender's Offices. She currently co-chairs the Seventh Judicial District Public Access Program, which provides access to information in a user-friendly environment. Ms. Walker is also on the UCS Committee for Self-Represented Litigants. Through these additional duties, she has worked with court agencies throughout the Seventh Judicial District and various communities of the eight counties and six cities that comprise the district.

**LUCILLE MALLARD is a Drug Court Coordinator with the Canandaigua City Court.** As a Drug Court Coordinator, she provides support to the Ontario County Drug Treatment Court. Mallard also is a mentor to new coordinators. She continues to provide assistance to the Canandaigua City Court wherever additional support is needed.

ANA BRIGNONI-WALICZEK is a Spanish-speaking court interpreter for the Eighth Judicial District. Some days she travels 300 miles covering courts in Orleans, Erie, and Chautauqua Counties. In addition to her work responsibilities, Ms. Brignoni-Waliczek recruits Spanish-speaking individuals to apply for positions in the Eighth Judicial District. She is a leader and performs each task with a smile.

**VERONICA RUCKER was recently named the Diversity Coordinator for the Eighth Judicial District,** formalizing a role she has played for the court system for many years. She has been the face of the court system in the African-American community, acting as an ambassador for the courts. She has assisted in the development of the curriculum and training for the program "Shattering the Myth..." Ms. Rucker has assisted with the EOC outreach program to encourage participation and successful outcomes in civil service exams by the minority community.

**MELISSA WILLIAMS was recently named the Deputy Chief Clerk of Lackawanna City Court in the Eighth Judicial District.** Prior to her appointment, she was the resource coordinator for the Buffalo City Court Domestic Violence part. She is a law school graduate and has been involved with the Diversity Committee, planning and implementing a training program on domestic violence in the workplace for employees. Ms. Williams has been collaborating with the Office of Public Affairs of the Office of Court Administration on the Student Ambassador Program to encourage high school students to learn about careers in the court system.

#### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

#### **FEBRUARY 2006**

# FEBRUARY IS CELEBRATED AS "BLACK HISTORY MONTH." Dr.

#### Carter G. Woodson, creator of the Journal of Negro History, launched the first celebration in 1926 as Negro History Week. During his academic studies, Dr. Woodson was disturbed to find that the black American population was largely ignored or misrepresented in American history. He chose the second week in February because it marked the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In keeping with this tradition, employees of the New York State Unified Court System sponsor programs throughout February celebrating the Black American contributions to our country.

#### KINGS COUNTY - "JOURNEY TO EMPOWERMENT"

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 KICK-OFF FASHION SHOW	2 FILM PT. 1	3 FILM PT. 2
6 BOOK SIGNING	7	8 SLAVERY EXHIBIT	9 HEALTH FORUM	10 TRIBUTE TO GOSPEL (PM)
13 OFF	14 FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER & REFINANCE PROGRAM	15	16 BOOK SIGNING	17 TRIBUNE RECEPTION
20 OFF	21 BOOK SIGNING	22 CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (AM) ART SHOW(PM)	PANEL DISCUSIION	24 BLACK FRIDAY 5-8:00 PM (OLD FASHIONED CARD PARTY, SPADES & BID WHIST)
27 TRIVIA GAME	28 CLOSING CEREMONY & RECEPTION			

As a community service, the Commission prints a listing of activities submitted by Kings County and Bronx County employees. For more details on

For more details on individual events, please contact:

### KINGS COUNTY CALENDAR

**Izetta Johnson** 347 296-1231

# BRONX COUNTY CALENDAR

**Michelle Foggie** 718 590-3801

**Bahaati Pitt** 718 590-3604

Phillip Dunn

718 537-3109

**Edna Kraus** 718 590-3704

# BRONX COUNTY -"CONTINUING THE LEGACY" BRINGING EACH ONE - TEACH ONE, BACK INTO REACH!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 OPENING CEREMONY& SPEAKER STEVE DUNCANSON 1:00 PM	2	3	4
5	6	7 CREDIT REPAIR WORKSHOP 1:00-2:00PM	8 ROTUNDA CANCER PREVENTION RALPH LAUREN CANCER INSTITUTE	9 FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS WORKSHOP BRONX SUPREME 711 6:00 - 8:00 PM	10	11
12	13	14  FILM  "LOVE JONES"  BRING YOUR OWN  POPCORN  ROOM TBA	15 1:00PM PANEL DISCUSSION 6:00 PM THIRD ANNUAL CELEBRATION	16	17	18
19	20	21 STRESS MANAGEMENT 1:00 - 2:00 PM	FILM & DISCUSSION "AND STILL I RISE" W/ GENDER FAIR- NESS COMMITTEE	23	24	25
GUIDED GROUP TOUR OF HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN NY EXHIBIT, 1:45 PM	27	28				

Tribute to Coretta Scott King



At the time of publication, we learned of the Death of Coretta Scott King, widow of Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the founder of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. While we celebrated the legacy of her husband, Andrew Young—companion to Dr. King in the Civil Rights Movement and former United States Ambassador and Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia—said that Mrs. King was as strong, if not stronger, as Dr. King. Mrs. King was a full partner in her husband's work, often marching and traveling with him, and sometimes giving speeches in his absence. She also raised their four (4) children—Yolanda, Martin Luther III, Dexter, and Bernice—and used her musical talents to conduct Freedom Concerts to benefit the civil rights movement.

**AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING, SHE INSPIRED THE WORLD** with her courage, dignity, and tireless devotion to preserving his legacy. To accomplish this goal, she campaigned for years to make King's birthday (January 15) a national holiday, a quest that was realized in 1986, when the first *Martin Luther King Day* was celebrated. As the founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer of the King Center, she facilitated the training of tens of thousands of activists from all over the world in the philosophy and practice of nonviolence. As one of the most admired women in the world, she was an outspoken champion of justice and human dignity—serving as an advisor and consultant to world leaders. When Mrs. King's husband Martin Luther died, she said "The nation has lost a committed civil and human rights activist whose life and contributions have made a significant difference." The same can now be said of her. The Commission honors her for her dedication to advocating for the equality and justice for both the citizens of the United States and the world.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the mission of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities to educate and advise decision makers in the New York Court System on the issues affecting both minority employees and litigants; and to implement recommendations developed to address said issues.

HON. LEWIS L. DOUGLASS CHAIR

HON. ARIEL E. BELEN VICE CHAIR

WILLIAM H. ETHERIDGE FELIX C. FERNANDEZ PAMELA D. HAYES, ESQ. LENORE KRAMER, ESQ. HON. yvonne lewis HON. RICHARD B. LOWE III

RENE MYATT, ESQ.

HON. EDUARDO PADRO
HON. CESAR H. QUINONES
DR. MARIA RAMIREZ
ROBERT M. REAVES
HON. ROSE H. SCONIERS
HON. CHARLES J. TEJADA
HON. TROY K. WEBBER
HON. DOUGLAS S. WONG

JOYCE Y. HARTSFIELD, ESQ. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**CONTACT US:** If you have concerns you would like to present to the Commission, please contact us at:

### FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MINORITIES

25 Beaver Street Room 861, New York, New York 10004 212 428-2790 Office, 212 428-2792 Fax website: www.nycourts.gov/ip/minorities/

#### WHAT'S NEW

- MEETING WITH CHIEF JUDGE: On February 22, 2006, the Commission will have its annual meeting with Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye. The Commission has met with several Administrative Judges and fraternal organizations in the past year and will share the discussions from said meetings. This meeting with the Chief Judge is part of the Commission ongoing mission to advise decision makers in the New York Unified Court System on the issues affecting minority employees.
- JUDGE BARRY A. COZIER—Associate Justice, Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department—will leave the New York State Unified Court System to go into private practice. The Commission congratulates Judge Cozier on his new professional venture.
- IN MEMORIAM: The Commission mourns the loss of Judge Constance Baker Motley, the first black woman to argue and win cases in front of the United States Supreme Court. Judge Motley leaves as her legacy being the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court in New York's Southern District and serving as a New York State Senator and Manhattan Borough President.

#### TO ALL EMPLOYEES AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

If you know of any promotions, recognitions, or events that the Commission should include in this newsletter, please contact our office at 212-428-2790. To view this newsletter online: http://nycourts.gov/ip/minorities/